

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:50pm. Selectmen present were: Michael Woodworth, Wes Moore, and James McIlroy. Others present were: Jackie Horgan, Jeff Buxton, Anne Gould, and Sue McKinnon.

On August 5th the New Hampshire National Guard is commemorating the 225th anniversary of the Purple Heart Medal by honoring New Hampshire residents who have earned a Purple Heart for their service in Iraq or Afghanistan. If you are interested in attending the ceremony, please contact the Town Office for additional information.

Correspondence from the Lane Law Offices was reviewed.

Notice of a price increase from Comcast was reviewed.

A Discretionary Easement was briefly discussed and then tabled until the applicant provides the necessary documents. Sue McKinnon was asked to review the procedure to renew a Discretionary Easement and will report back to the Selectmen.

The Public Hearing Notice from the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services was reviewed. This hearing will be held on August 9th and is a draft of the State Revolving Fund Project Priority List for Fiscal Year 2008.

A notice from the State of New Hampshire about a meeting at the NHDOT regarding Route 108 just north of NH108/85 intersection was reviewed. The Road Agent, Planning Board Members, Fire Chief, and Town Planner have been advised of this meeting.

Dennis Thorell, L.P.F. notified the Town of his resignation from State service. He will be offering his services as a licensed professional forester in the private sector.

The State of New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services notified the Town of a Botulism Risk in Castleberry Products. Any suspected or confirmed cases must be immediately reported to the NH DHHS Communicable Disease Control and Surveillance Section.

The Legal Notice from the Newfields Planning Board was reviewed – this is for a preliminary discussion regarding the Route 108 commercial corridor planning and zoning to be held on August 9th at the Town Hall at 6:00pm.

Checks were signed.

A Land Use Change Tax was signed.

A Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber was signed.

A Town Hall Rental Agreement was signed.

Jackie Horgan, Jeff Buxton, and Anne Gould of the Dispatch Advisory Committee met with the Selectmen. Win Fream was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. A letter was given to the committee members outlining the information the Selectmen are looking for. It was emphasized that the committee is to gather information, but the final decision as to who the Town will utilize for dispatch services is up to the Selectmen. The Selectmen will be looking for regular updates from the committee and hope to have the information needed to make a final decision by the end of October, 2007. Committee members were also given a copy of the Advisory Committee Guidelines – meetings must be publicly noticed – meetings must be open to the public – minutes must be kept at all meetings (and a copy of the minutes given to the Town Office). The Selectmen are looking for an objective opinion from the Committee.

The Committee will research the costs and benefits of Newmarket Dispatch versus Rockingham Country Dispatch including hard (monetary, services, etc.) and soft (cooperation with towns, etc.) costs and benefits. Some examples of these are:

What are the actual and/or perceived differences in service(s) provided by the two dispatches?

What are the short and long term implications of switching to Rockingham? Including the technical issues and cost of changing radio frequencies and the availability of air time for both dispatch systems.

What, if any, are the differences in effectiveness of the dispatch systems on immediate response to 911 fire and police emergencies? What, if any, are differences in officer safety?

What is likely to happen with costs being charged by each dispatch in the future?

The Dispatch Advisory Committee will hold their first public hearing on Wednesday, August 8th, 2007 at 6:30pm at the Newfields Town Hall. This will be publicly noticed at the Town Office and the Newfields Post Office.

The taxes for Hutchinson Sealing were reviewed.

A resident inquired about receiving a wood heat credit on her property taxes. The Town can adopt this, but it will need to be voted on and approved by the registered voters. Sue McKinnon will contact the Local Government Center to see how much the standard exemption is and will report back to the Selectmen.

Wes made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2007 Selectmen's Meeting as amended. Michael seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all in favor.

James made a motion to remove item f (Formation of Dispatch Study Committee) from the open items list. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Resident Nathan Smith expressed interest in serving on the Planning Board and Roberta Gerkin expressed interest in serving on the Budget Advisory Committee. James asked both of them to submit letters of interest to the Town Office.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant